



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health


(DR. D. S. PARK),

*For the Year ended 31st December, 1914.*

---

J. C. HUDSON, PRINTER, NEWBOTTLE STREET, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.

1915.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29437295>

# Medical Officer's Report.

---

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour to submit for your consideration and acceptance my thirty-third Annual Report dealing with the health and sanitary condition of the district for the year 1914.

Appended to my Report are the various tables of the Local Government Board numbered respectively I., II., III., and IV. In order that the text of my report may be more readily understood, the following particulars will prove of great assistance.

Table I. deals with the vital statistics of the whole district during the year under consideration and previous years.

Table II. gives the cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

Table III. gives the causes and ages at death during the year.

Table IV. gives the infant mortality for 1914, net deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age.

By referring to Table I. we shall find that 181 deaths have been registered during the year in the district itself—but in estimating the mortality it is necessary to carry out the instructions of the Local Government Board. Of the transferable deaths 13 occurred to non-residents and 6 to residents not registered in the district, so that after making the necessary corrections the total number of deaths upon which our mortality must be based becomes reduced to 174.

*Death-rate.*—In estimating the population at the middle of the year as required by the Local Government Board at 10,619, this is equivalent to a death rate of 16·3 per 1,000 per annum, and an infant mortality of 49·4 per cent. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 registered births is 176·2,

*Births.*—The births for the year number 170 males and 159 females, representing a birth-rate of 30·8 per 1,000 per annum, and a gain to the population of 155.

The following Tables gives the births, male and female, including birth-rate for the last four years :—

Year.	Births.	Males.	Females.	Rate.	Increase.
1911	328	166	162	33·6	152
1912	343	196	147	34·6	197
1913	341	171	170	33·7	167
1914	329	170	159	30·8	155

The subjoined table gives the death-rate per 1,000 from the principal zymotic diseases during the past three years :—

No.	Diseases	1912.	1913.	1914.
1	Small-Pox ... ..	0	0	0
2	Scarlet Fever ... ..	0	·09	·09
3	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	·5	·1	·6
4	Typhoid Fever and Continued Fever	·1	·1	·2
5	Measles ... ..	·1	·3	0
6	Whooping Cough ... ..	·3	0	·1
7	Diarrhoea, Dysentery and Enteritis...	·1	2·1	2·07
8	Phthisis Pulmonalis ... ..	·5	·5	1·1
9	Acute Diseases of the Lungs ... ..	2·01	3·06	2·5
10	Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	·1	·09	·1

*New Cases of Sickness.*—The Infectious Disease Notification Act was adopted by your Council on February 1st, 1890. The premises and out-offices are inspected as early as possible after receiving the Notification Forms—usually on the same day—and instructions given as to isolation and disinfection. Home isolation in the majority of cases however is a physical impossibility. We are a mining population with a relatively high birth-rate, and our houses are chiefly of the cottage property class, so that the resources of the family are often severely taxed in order to provide sleeping accommodation for the children with a proper regard for the separation of the sexes. Our Isolation Hospital is supported out of the rates and no charge is made for the main-



tenance or treatment of cases. I am happy to be able to state that there is a growing desire on the part of the general public to avail themselves of hospital relief when occasion requires. So popular is the Hospital becoming that it is no uncommon thing for patients to return to the Hospital from time to time to express their gratitude and thanks for the kindness and consideration they received while under treatment there.

I have repeatedly remarked, Gentlemen, that the Notification Act should be so amended as to make it compulsory on the part of the Medical Attendant to inform the patients as to the nature of the disease and the precautions to be taken pending the arrival of the Medical Officer of Health. There is sometimes considerable delay in forwarding the Notification Forms and it is not an uncommon thing for your Medical Officer to find while on his rounds of inspection children attending school from Infected homes. When remonstrated with the parents express surprise and plead that they were not aware that the illness was of an infectious nature.

*Disinfectants.*—These are supplied free of charge and your Inspector himself frequently superintends their use. The rooms and bedding of infectious cases are sprayed with a solution of Formalin and fumigated with Formic Aldehyde and Sulphur. This form of disinfection is only a surface one and is of little or no value in the disinfection of contaminated articles of Typhoid Fever cases—hence the urgent need of a disinfectant.

*Disinfecting Apparatus.*—The “Reck” Machine which your Council decided to erect at the Hospital has not yet been installed. Your Surveyor was instructed to proceed with its erection, but when the war broke out it was decided to postpone the work for the present.

The delay was unfortunate, as a disinfecting apparatus is absolutely necessary in dealing with contaminated articles of infectious cases. Such articles as the bed and bedding cannot otherwise be properly disinfected as we found, much to our regret, when trying to disinfect the things at Elizabeth Street where six cases of Typhoid Fever occurred. I would therefore again, Gentlemen, respectfully urge your Council to proceed with the work without further delay.

*Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.*—The cases were investigated in the usual way, but my rounds of inspection revealed no apparent sanitary defects.

Although one of the so-called filth diseases it is sometimes impossible to trace the source of infection as was the case during

the present year. In four of the cases the families were using condensed milk, while the remainder were deriving their milk supply from different sources, so that I had no reason whatever to suspect the purity of the milk. No doubt the extensive and persistent prevalence of Scarlet Fever during the year may have predisposed to the disease by rendering the throat more susceptible to the diphtheric infection, as a matter of fact two or three of the cases followed immediately after an attack of Scarlet Fever. Nine of the cases were Males and eight Females, so that both sexes suffered in almost equal proportion.

It is interesting to note the time of year when the cases were notified :—

In January	...	4	cases	were	notified.
„ February	...	2	„	„	
„ March	...	4	„	„	
„ April	...	2	„	„	
„ May	...	2	„	„	
„ June	...	0	„	„	
„ July	...	1	„	„	
„ August	...	0	„	„	
„ September	...	1	„	„	
„ October	...	1	„	„	
„ November	...	0	„	„	
„ December	...	1	„	„	

---

18

All cases treated in the Hospital are at once injected with the Antitoxic Serum and with good results. In private practice the serum is provided free of charge through your Medical Officer on application by the Medical Attendant for the use of persons who are unable to provide it for themselves. The cases were confined to no particular part of the district, but were distributed fairly evenly over the township.

*Scarlet Fever.*—The epidemic of Scarlet Fever of last year did not begin to decline until about the month of May of the present year when there was a distinct lull with every indication that the epidemic was at an end. It broke out again, however, and continued more or less in epidemic form until about the end of October, when only an isolated case here and there was notified.

The character of the outbreak was much the same as that of last year. The type of the disease was very mild, and many of

the cases were neither recognised nor suspected until the peeling stage had set in. In these very mild outbreaks it is difficult, if not impossible, to convince the parents that precautions of any kind are necessary—hence little or nothing is done at home to safeguard the other members of the family or to prevent the infection from spreading to persons outside the family circle. The indiscriminate visiting at infected homes and the attendance at school of children suffering from mild attacks were the two chief causes in prolonging the outbreak. I had no reason whatever to suspect milk contamination. The families were getting their milk supply from different sources, while many were using condensed milk and some no milk at all.

The following table gives the months and number of cases notified in each month:—

January	...	...	...	39
February	...	...	...	23
March	...	...	...	13
April	...	...	...	14
May ...	...	...	...	9
June ...	...	...	...	7
July ...	...	...	...	4
August	...	...	...	5
September	...	...	...	23
October	...	...	...	15
November	...	...	...	3
December	...	...	...	—
				<hr/> 155

*Typhoid Fever.*—Typhoid Fever is looked upon as a seasonal disease. It is usually during the autumn months that it breaks out, reaching its maximum about October. Cases may occur, however, at any time according as to how and by what means the specific organisms enter the body. The first case was notified on April 19th, and was one of those mysterious sporadic cases met with now and again and apparently had nothing in common with the subsequent outbreak which began on August 5th, and continued to the end of October as a perusal of the list of cases will shew.

The outbreak originated in a family living in Elizabeth Street. The husband, a stall-keeper, and a servant girl were at the Durham Miners' Demonstration, held on July 25th, where thousands of persons from all parts of the county usually meet on those occasions. They had ham sandwiches to eat and lemon-



ade to drink, and apparently were in their usual health. On August 5th, they were certified as suffering from Typhoid Fever, and in due course two children and the mother also developed the disease. With the exception of the servant girl who refused to leave her home, they were all removed to the Hospital, and the baby, wrapped in a blanket taken from the bed, was removed to the home of the half-sister to be taken care of. This woman's daughter and her husband also contracted the fever as well as another relative of the family who had been a frequent visitor at the home, and a girl who helped in washing the soiled linen. In all nine cases were traceable to the Elizabeth Street family. The house was well kept, and my rounds of inspection revealed no apparent sanitary defects.

For some years back, Gentlemen, as I have repeatedly remarked, Newbottle Row, Lambton Street, and Quarry Row have been the localities in which Typhoid Fever has broken out.

Some time ago some of the Manholes in this locality were so offensive that they had to be covered over and ventilating shafts provided, when the nuisance for the time was abated. In my recent investigations however, along with your Surveyor, they were again found to be offensive. They were thoroughly flushed and disinfected, and the offensive manhole at the top end of Newbottle Row was covered over and a ventilating shaft provided. This was very necessary, as the street is used as a play-ground by the children in the neighbourhood. Newbottle Row and Lambton Street as you know, Gentlemen, are set back to back with a back street between them. The four cases that occurred here were all close together, and there had been frequent visiting between the families. At Pottery Yard the street ventilator, not far from the house where the patient lived was also very offensive. The sewer was at once flushed and disinfected. In Sunderland Street the W.C. in the yard was choked up and was very offensive. In the other cases I found nothing to complain of.

The milk question was carefully considered, but I had no reason whatever to suspect milk contamination. Four of the families were using condensed milk, a few no milk at all, while the rest were deriving their supply from different sources.

The out-offices are at once cleansed and disinfected, and pails are provided for patients treated at home. It is much to be regretted that we have not yet got a disinfecting chamber installed at the Hospital. With the means at our disposal the disinfection of such articles as the bed and bedding is utterly impossible.



The cases treated in the Hospital were characterised by severe abdominal pain and hemorrhage, and were all in a very critical condition, and one terminated fatally from perforation.

List of Typhoid cases, and date of notification.

Date.	Sex.	Age.	Address.
April 19	Female	16	77, Long Row, Colliery Row
Aug. 5	Female	17	Big House Yard, Market Place
" 5	Male	35	16, Elizabeth Street
" 8	Female	9	Do.
" 10	Male	7	Do.
" 17	Female	9	55, Quarry Row.
" 27	Female	42	10, Prospect Row
Sept. 5	Female	35	16, Elizabeth Street
" 10	Female	19	6, Newbottle Row
" 13	Female	8	2, Newbottle Row
" 15	Female	16	7, Newbottle Row
" 19	Male	12	8, Lambton Street
Oct. 12	Male	9	6, Pottery Yard
" 17	Male	32	16, Kirklea Lane
" 17	Female	15	Do.
" 17	Female	9	69, Sunderland Street
" 17	Female	47	Market Place
" 30	Female	18	Seaham Road
" 30	Male	29	22, Kirklea Lane
Nov. 28	Female	24	Urban Hospital
Dec. 12	Female	27	26, South View, Colliery Row
" 30	Female	24	22, Kirklea Lane

*Cholera and Small-Pox.*—We have enjoyed a complete immunity from these diseases for a long number of years.

*Erysipelas.*—The cases were of the ordinary type, and the premises occupied by the patients were clean and well kept. Eight were Males and six Females.

*Chicken Pox.*—Is no longer a notifiable disease with us. The few cases that have come under my observation were of the usual type and presented no features of interest, and the diagnosis was never in question.

*Measles.*—The district has been singularly free from Measles during the past year. I have repeatedly remarked, Gentlemen, that it is too much the habit to look upon Measles as quite a harmless disease—one requiring little or no special care or treatment. This is a huge mistake; from the very first the patient should be kept warm in bed and put under medical treatment. There is no disease, if neglected, more likely to leave behind it ear and chest complications which if not at the time, certainly in after life, may seriously affect the general health of the individual.

*Mumps.*—During the month of October Mumps was very prevalent among children attending school. No doubt the cold raw weather contributed to the outbreak.

*Whooping Cough.*—In July and August a few cases of whooping cough came under my observation. They were rather of an aggravated form, and two had a fatal termination.

*Diarrhœa, Enteritis, etc.,* were very prevalent in August and September among infants and young children. No less than 19 of the 50 deaths registered during the third quarter of the year were due to these diseases alone. Climatic conditions, insanitary surroundings, improper feeding and clothing are important factors in their propagation. The intense heat and the plague of flies by affecting and contaminating the milk and other food stuffs no doubt largely contributed to the outbreak.

*House Flies.*—As I have said we suffered from a plague of flies during the summer months. So numerous and persistent were they that it was almost impossible to prevent them from getting to the ordinary food stuffs of the family. No house rubbish, vegetable or other garbage should be allowed to accumulate in or near dwellings, and stable manure should be removed at frequent intervals and the places thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, as in addition to their being a pest, flies are well known to be carriers of disease.

*The Notification of Births' Act* is in force in this district. The Lady Visitor appointed by the County Council to administer the Act is energetic and tactful in the discharge of her important and somewhat delicate duties. She is well received by the people among whom she labours and is doing a good work. It is to be hoped we will soon see a substantial and gratifying decrease in our infant mortality as the result of the valuable and judicious services she is able to render to those in need of advice and assistance when on her rounds of visitation.

*Pneumonia and Other Chest Affections.*—The prevailing north-east winds in the winter and early spring as I have frequently remarked, and the nature of our staple industry in which so many men are employed in the night shift and the practice of taking infants and young children to the Picture Halls, etc., in the evening, improperly clothed in many instances, all contribute to our somewhat high mortality from chest affections. On returning home after a hard night's work somewhat exhausted and in a perspiring condition, the night-shift men, as can be easily understood, are peculiarly liable to suffer from chest affections.

*Tuberculosis.*—The New Regulations, 1912, apply to Non-Pulmonary as well as to Pulmonary Tuberculosis so that all forms of Tuberculosis must now be notified.

The cases are investigated in the usual way and proper instructions are given as to ventilation, isolation and the disposal of the sputum, and Sputum Flasks and paper handkerchiefs are provided. In all suitable cases Sanatorium treatment is recommended. If however any real and lasting benefit is to be derived from Sanatorium treatment the cases must be sent off at the earliest possible moment. When the disease is advanced the patient is doomed to disappointment as no real good is ever effected. He may return home looking and feeling better for the rest and good food and the wonderful hope inspired by the new treatment, but sooner or later the patient loses ground and ultimately succumbs to the disease. While in the Sanatorium of course he is well disciplined and is taught much which it is well for him to know and there is no fear of him infecting others, so that in this way Sanatorium treatment even in advanced cases serves a good purpose although it fails to be of much benefit to the patient himself.

25 cases in all were notified during the year, under Form A 17, under Form B 0, under Form C 3, and 5 under Form D.

The following table gives the ages, male and female, notified under Form A :—

		Ages.								
		1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Total.
Males.										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	5
Other Forms of Tuberculosis		1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Females.										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	6
Other Forms of Tuberculosis		1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total	...	3	3	5	1	1	4	—	—	17

In nine of the cases there was a distinct family history of Tuberculosis. Six of the cases terminated fatally.



*Poliomyelitis and Cerebro-Spinal Fever.*—These diseases are now notifiable, but no cases of the kind have been notified during the year.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*—The disease was made notifiable in April of last year. It is to be hoped that the compulsory notification of the above disease will do much to safeguard the eyes of new born infants, and to prevent the disease from spreading to the other members of the family. Many infants have unquestionably lost their sight through carelessness and want of knowledge on the part of those in attendance at the birth as to the nature of the disease and the terrible consequences likely to ensue when proper precautions are not taken.

*Influenza.*—A few cases of Influenza came under my observation during the winter and early spring. The type of the disease was much milder than previously. The chief symptoms were frontal headache, nasal catarrh, and a certain amount of prostration with of course a rise of temperature.

*Ringworm.*—A few cases of Ringworm were reported to me during the year. They were usually found among the dirty and neglected children, and as is the case with verminous children, they are rightly excluded from school as a protection to the other scholars.

*Hospital Accommodation.*—We have a conjoint Small-pox Hospital for the use of the whole Union. Fortunately the district has been free from the disease for a long number of years.

The new caretaker and his wife are giving every satisfaction, they are capable and energetic in the discharge of their duties. The wife has had Hospital and Ambulance Training, and is tidy and methodical in her work. The husband too is no less capable and shews a natural aptitude for his new duties.

Our Isolation Hospital for the treatment of other Infectious diseases is built of stone and consists of four Wards in addition to the administrative block with accommodation for eleven beds. The two Nurses' sitting-bedrooms, the installation of the electric light and telephone, and the erection of a Reck Disinfector which your Council decided to proceed with at once have been held in abeyance for the present owing to the unsettled condition of the country caused by the war. Gentlemen, permit me to point out that these improvements are all very necessary, especially the Disinfecting Apparatus, as we are seriously inconvenienced in

dealing with infectious cases by not having a Disinfecting Machine for the proper disinfection of such articles as the bed and bedding, etc., and should be proceeded with without any unnecessary delay.

*Milk.*—A portion of our Milk Supply is derived from outside the district. As a rule our milk is of good quality and ample for our requirements. Proceedings for adulteration are taken by the County Council. Two convictions were obtained at the Houghton-le-Spring Petty Sessions during the year against two farmers living outside the district for selling milk deficient in natural fat.

*Meat.*—Our Meat as a rule is home fed and of good quality. In the month of April at the request of the Owner and a deputation of the Butchers' Protection Association, I examined the carcase of a beast that had been slaughtered in the usual way for human consumption as there was a little uncertainty as to the quality of the meat. In their presence and along with your Sanitary Inspector I made my examination. I found traces of Miliary Tuberculosis in the Lungs, but the other organs appeared to be healthy and the flesh itself was sound and of good average quality. The lungs were destroyed but the meat was not interfered with. In the month of June another carcase of a beast that had been slaughtered in the usual way for human consumption was examined at the request of one of the Owners, as the meat was considered of questionable quality. The left lung was badly affected at the Apex with Tubercles. The pharangeal glands were enlarged and caseating and the peritoneum was also affected; with the concurrence of the Owners the carcase was destroyed.

*Slaughtering.*—I regret, gentlemen, that slaughtering is still carried on in some of the shops. This is alike objectionable and demoralising, and should not be allowed.

There are eleven registered slaughter houses in the district, and the butchers afford your Inspector every facility for examining the premises, which as a rule are clean and well kept. The offal is at once removed to a suitable place when the slaughtering is over. One fresh licence was granted during the year to a Pork Butcher at Colliery Row.

*Dairies and Cowsheds.*—These are regularly and systematically inspected by your Inspector, and by your Medical Officer when occasion requires. The premises as a rule are clean and well kept, and the lighting, ventilation and air space are all in accordance with your bye-laws. The byres are limewashed four



times a year at regular intervals and are registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Act, 1884. The cows are of a good average class and have been free from all infectious disease so far as I am aware. You have no other Inspector in this connection than your Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector.

*Common Lodging Houses.*—There are three licensed Common Lodging Houses in the district, one each at High Hill-Side, Grey Horse Lane and Gas House Lane. The houses are carefully supervised by your Inspector, who in addition to his regular and systematic inspections pays surprise visits from time to time with apparently satisfactory results. The houses are orderly and well kept, and afford ample accommodation for the requirements of the district. The only complaint received during the year was with respect to an insanitary convenience. At the request of your Inspector the matter was at once attended to.

*Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.*—A systematic inspection of the houses in the district is being carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer, and all particulars of their inspections are fully entered on the proper forms. These along with their joint recommendations are submitted to your Council at its next meeting. The matters complained of are then fully considered and the necessary instructions are given to your Officers as to the steps to be taken to give effect to your recommendations.

The following Table gives the number of houses inspected, etc. :—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Number of Houses Inspected.	Number of Houses unfit for habitation.	Number of representations made with a view to closing order.	Number of closing orders made.	Number of Houses repaired without closing orders.	Number of closed Houses put into fit state.	General character of defect found to exist.
271	4	4	4	56 work in progress 66	0	Open Privy Ashpits Defective paved yards Defectively lighted and ventilated areas



*Spouting.*—The Spouting of the district is much improved. When engaged in carrying out the work under the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, they received special attention as much of the dampness in houses is due to imperfect spouting.

*House Scavenging.*—According to present arrangements districts 1, 4 and 6 are let by contract, and the remaining districts are scavenged by the Council's staff. The work done by the Contractors is not always satisfactory, so that careful supervision on the part of your Inspector is necessary in order to ensure the proper and systematic emptying and cleansing of the out-offices, without which they are liable to be neglected, especially during the summer months when their farm work usually claims their first consideration. This, of course, is the time of year when systematic and efficient scavenging is of all importance. On the contrary, the work done by the Council's staff is much more satisfactory; and few, if any, complaints are made by the inhabitants living in the districts scavenged by them. With these facts before us, Gentlemen, it might be well for your Council to give the question of undertaking the scavenging of the whole district by your own staff your serious consideration.

*Tips*—There is only one tip at present used by your Council's staff. It is some 200 yards away from the nearest dwelling. The Contractors cart their refuse to the nearest land available for dressing purposes.

*Houghton Burn.*—In the summer months and after periods of protracted drought the burn becomes very offensive and requires cleaning out from time to time. This is the more necessary as the children from the Council School resort to the Burn for the purpose of making mud pies, etc.

*Offensive Trades.*—The premises in which offensive trades are carried on are used by fish friers, ten in number, and a tallow chandler. The premises are clean and well kept, and are all in accordance with the requirements of your Model Bye-laws appertaining to such trades.

*Ash-pits and Privies, etc.*—The number of ash-pits, privies, etc., in the district is 1917, made up as follows: Water-closets, 451; ash-closets, 1020; ash-pit privies, 446. The number of open privies in the district is gradually being reduced by the substitution, where possible, of ash-closets or water-closets. The number of privies that have been converted in the year is 81.

*Housing Improvements.*—*William Street, New Town*—House 19, has been provided with a new slate roof and cement floors.

*Hole-in-the-Wall, New Town.*—Houses 1, 2, 3 and 4 were found on inspection to be unfit for human habitation. Closing Orders were served on the owners, but owing to the dearth of houses the tenants were unable to procure other houses so that premises the are still occupied.

*New Town Mission Cottage.*—The owner has provided a water-closet and portable iron ash-bin in place of an insanitary privy ash-pit, so that the premises are now in a satisfactory condition.

*High Hill-Side.*—House number 8 has been provided with cement floors and new doors, and the walls have been re-plastered, so that it is now in a good sanitary condition.

*Hopper Square.*—The out-houses have been repaired and provided with new doors and hatches, so that the premises are now in a satisfactory condition.

*Mautland Street.*—32 privy ash-pits have been converted into ash-closets, and the yards have been paved, and dormer windows have been provided to upstairs rooms, thus affording much better light and ventilation.

*Bowlby Street* —20 privy ash-pits have been converted into ash-closets, and the floors and yards have been relaid, and other important repairs have been carried out.

*Pit Row.*—5 houses in this Row have been provided with water-closets and bins for the dry ashes. The yards have been relaid and the roofs repaired, and other minor improvements carried out; some more houses in this row will be similarly dealt with. I understand the work is now in the hands of the Contractor, and when carried out the houses will be in a much better sanitary condition.

*Quarry Row.*—27 houses in this Row have been provided with dormer windows, thus greatly improving the light and ventilation of the rooms. Other improvements of a more or less substantial character are now in progress.

*Long Row, Colliery Row.*—27 doors in this Row have been altered and repaired and other improvements have been carried out.

*50, Long Row.*—Owing to the dilapidated and dangerous condition of this house it was necessary to close it.

*The Sun Inn, Market Place*, has been purchased by your Council with a view of having it demolished to improve the Market Place.

*Public Lighting.*—Additional Lamps have been provided for the undermentioned Streets :—

North Back Edwin street	...	1
Balmer Street	... ..	2
Back Balmer Street	... ..	1
Miller's Hill	... ..	2
Henry Street	... ..	1
Grey Street	... ..	1
Back Glebe Terrace	... ..	1
North Back Ironside Street	... ..	1
Back Stanley Street	... ..	1
Back Balfour Street	... ..	1
Nesham Hall Square	... ..	1
Total		13

15 Lamps have been converted from flat flame to incandescent pattern.

Arrangements have been made with the Tramways Company for lighting by electricity a dangerous corner at east end of Newcastle Road and the Sunderland main road adjoining the Rectory Grounds. These additional lights have brightened the Town and added much to the comfort and convenience of the general public, while the continued electric light at the corner of the Sunderland and Durham Main Road, which is one of the busiest parts of the town, will be much appreciated.

*Private Streets.*—Your Council have decided to have the following Streets properly formed and made up. Before proceeding with the work, however, your Council are taking steps to ascertain whether the Lambton & Hetton Collieries, Limited, are prepared to have certain continuation or branch streets formed at the same time. The unsettled condition of the Country caused by the war, has, to a certain extent contributed to the delay. These Streets, Gentlemen, are all in a more or less deplorable condition and should be taken in hand at the earliest possible moment :—

A portion of Baker Street, West Baker Street, Balfour Street, Back Balfour Street, Stanley Street, Outram Street, Ironside Street, Elizabeth Street, Edwin Street, Henry Street, Mildred Street, Shield's Place, Gilpin Street, Rose Street, Bernard Street, and Wheler Street.



*Highways and Footways* —Large quantities of road metal of various kinds have been laid and steam rolled throughout the district as follows :—Coatings of Ironstone Slag, water bound, from the Houghton Brewery to the Urban District Boundary at Rainton Bridge on the Durham Main Road, Gilles Lane from the Grove to the Bungalow. Patching repairs with the like material have been made on roads as follows :—Copt Hill and Sunderland Road, Chilton Moor, Redburn Row, Blackboy Road, and the Hetton Road, and Tarred Slag repairs at Sunderland Street, Edwin Street, Newbottle Street, and Front Street, Colliery Row.

Coatings of Tarred Slag have been laid and steam rolled on the following Highways :—Hopper Street to Johnson Crescent, North View from Front Street, Colliery Row, to Moors Farm. The Tramway Track has been repaired under contract in Newbottle Street, Quarry Row, Hetton Road, Newcastle Road, North View and Front Street.

Land subsidence is seriously affecting the contour of the Durham Main Road and the Newcastle Road, making it difficult to dispose of the surface water in each case. Large quantities of rough material are from time to time laid on the last mentioned road for the purpose of raising the level, and the footpath has been considerably raised.

*Footpaths* have been made up as follows :—In Church Street, Edwin Street, Market Place, Kirklea Lane, Mount Pleasant, Sunderland Street, Mautland Street, Union Street, George Street, Robinson Street. Throughout the district the Ash-footpaths have had attention, and the surface of the highway at Pit Row has been readjusted.

*Sewers.*—The Sewers have been frequently examined, flushed and disinfected. Obstructions were removed from the Sewers at West Back Baker Street, Outram Street, and on the Wheler and Villa Estates, and the Market Place. Colliery workings continue to affect some of the Sewers throughout the district. They are more or less sewage clogged so that it is with difficulty they can be made to flow. Little or no improvement can be made just now owing to the continued subsidence of the land, and it would be a waste of money to attempt to relay until the land has settled.

It was necessary to erect two steel ventilation shafts, one at Back Sunderland Street, Edwin Street, and the other at Back Lambton Street. Heavy rain storms, particularly during the month of June, caused damage and obstruction with consequent flooding of highways and properties on the North Hetton Farm,

at Long Row and Front Street, Colliery Row, Newcastle Road, Hetton Road, Durham Road, Back Cross Street, and the Tile Sheds.

*Water Supply.*—The total consumption of water for all purposes during the past year has been 64,070,000 gallons, of which the Houghton Colliery supplied 52,873,000 gallons, and the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company 11,197,000 gallons, being a total daily average of 175,534 gallons.

The consumption as registered by the Meter for trade purposes totals 7,000,000 gallons, or a daily average of 19,150 gallons per day, and the balance of 57,070,000 gallons, being an average of 156,383 gallons per day, has been for general consumption, including Street and Sewer purposes, etc., or a daily average of 16·03 gallons per head of the population taken as 9,753, and not including two portions of the Rural District supplied on a basis of an assessment and representing nearly 200 persons.

The laying of the compound main for the supply to the 52 Workmen's Dwellings now in course of erection, the Hospital, together with the Houses, Farms, and Fire and Rescue Station on the Hetton Road and the Gilles Lane has been completed, the result being that the district generally is now supplied at a greatly increased pressure, the gauge at the Council Depot in Newbottle Street registering an average noon day pressure of 75lbs. per square inch as against that of 50lbs. formerly.

The Mains have been extended on the Wheler, Villa, Hawdon-side and Ironside Estates, also at Colliery Row.

Considerable inconvenience has been experienced by reason of burst mains, Colliery Row being particularly affected through the dislocation of the trunk main caused by land subsidence on the Newcastle Road, North View and Long Row.

*Workmen's Houses.*—Of the 52 houses in course of erection by your Council, 36 are in an advanced state of construction and will soon be fit for occupation.

*Building Operations.*—Plans have been passed for new buildings and structural alterations to existing houses during the year as follows :—For 2 Children's Homes for the Houghton-le-Spring Guardians, 3 for the conversion of premises, 6 for alterations to dwelling-houses, 1 for rebuilding shop, 1 for motor garage, and 1 for a warehouse.



For some years back very few new houses have been erected in Houghton itself, although outside the district the building trade has been fairly brisk. The builders of the district are capable and energetic, and have the means at their disposal, and are quite willing and ready to build for private owners, but shew no desire to build on speculation. Suitable land, I understand, is difficult to acquire, and the rates are considered high, so that they do not consider the outlook favourable for a reasonable return for the capital invested in such an enterprise.

When the cottages which the Council are building are ready for occupation much of the overcrowding which undoubtedly exists at present will cease.

There is a feeling that the dearth of houses in the district is taken advantage of by some of the owners to delay the necessary repairs and alterations to their houses required by order of your Council, from a belief that your Council from humane consideration are not disposed to press matters. When available houses are to be had, many of those houses will be closed, and rightly so, until they are put into a proper habitable state of repair.

*Factories and Workshops* — These were inspected in the usual way, and the various tables giving full particulars of the work done and sanitary conditions remedied were sent to the Local Government Board, The Home Office, and the County Council, in accordance with instructions. The light, air space, ventilation and drainage were all in accordance with the Act, and there was no case of overcrowding.

Two conveniences were in a faulty condition—one was a privy ash-pit which was very foul, the other was a water closet cistern, both defects were at once attended to. In another case a Sanitary Convenience was found in a workshop, but was not separated from the work-room by an intervening ventilated space as required by the Factory and Workshops' Accommodation Act. As the owner is unwilling to make the necessary alteration the case was reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories with the result that your Sanitary Inspector has now the matter in hand.

The following table gives particulars of the inspections made during the year :—

Inspections made.	Defects found.	Defects remedied after notice.	Defects not remedied after notice.
38	3	2	1



The following table shews the number of boys and girls examined for certificates of fitness for employment in Factories and Workshops :—

Age. Class in which employment was sought.	Examined.			Certified.			Rejected.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Under 14 years of age, intended to be employed half-time ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Between 13 and 14 years of age, intended to be employed full time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Between 14 and 16 years	27	24	51	27	24	51	0	0	0
Total ... ..	27	24	51	27	24	51	0	0	0

*Sewage Farm.*—There is no alteration in the condition of the Sewage Farm. Nothing can be done to improve matters until the subsidence due to colliery workings is settled. It is only by the exercise of the greatest care and supervision that even a limited amount of purification of our sewage can be effected. Let me remind you, Gentlemen, how much you are indebted to your venerable and courteous Chairman for the purification of our sewage. He takes a keen personal interest in the working of the farm, and I feel sure you deeply appreciate his able and valuable services.

*The Lambton Collieries Limited.*—My reference to the colliery owners in my reports is due entirely to the fact that they are the great employers of labour and the chief owners of cottage property in the district. Mr. Palliser has again kindly furnished me with a detailed list of the work carried out by the company during the year. I cannot enter into any details as the space at my disposal is too limited. They employ as you know, Gentlemen, a large permanent staff of workmen to keep their property in order. For years back they have been systematically employed in pulling down and rebuilding the insanitary privy ash-pits. Of the latter work there is still much to be done, but with the steady progress they are making, the district should soon be rid of those most objectionable and dangerous receptacles. In their future building operations I should advise the erection of a few larger houses—houses with four or five rooms for the accommodation of their workmen with large families. This, with a re-arrangement of the present houses, with a view to meeting the requirements of the family according to the number of children, would do much to abate the overcrowding in the district.

Gentlemen, I have to thank your able Surveyor for the valuable assistance he has given me during the year. Your new Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Emery, who was appointed last October to act in the temporary absence of Mr. Allport, who was given a Commission in the Army, is active and energetic and takes a keen interest in his work. He is well up in his duties and shews a willing readiness to co-operate with your Medical Officer in all matters calculated to improve the sanitary condition of the district, and I offer him my thanks.

I have frequently remarked, Gentlemen, that you will find much in my report with which you are already familiar. This is unavoidable in as much as I must keep the Local Government Board and the County Council acquainted with all matters of importance brought before your Council during the year, and my Annual Report is the chief channel through which such information is conveyed.

I have just received from Dr. Hill a copy of the Chief Vital Statistics for the Administrative County of Durham which I herewith attach to my report, and for which I offer him my thanks. Although our death-rate is a little higher, many of our other rates bear a favourable comparison with those of the County. A death rate of 16·3 cannot be considered high for an industrial population with a relatively high birth rate such as ours, but for the high mortality among infants and young children from Diarrhoea and Enteritis during the 3rd Quarter of the year, our death rate would have been much lower. Permit me again, Gentlemen, to offer you my sincere thanks for the many acts of kindness and consideration which I have received from every member of your Council during the long number of years I have had the honour to act as your Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. S. PARK.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferrable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-registered residents in the District. 8	of Residents not registered in the District. 9	Under 1 Year of age		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. 11	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			10		12	13
1909	9,800	...	383	39.08	132	13.4	9	4	38	99.2	127	12.9
1910	10,250	...	299	29.1	194	18.9	14	3	48	160.5	183	17.8
1911	9,753	...	328	33.6	177	18.1	11	10	49	149.3	176	18.03
1912	9,910	...	343	34.6	149	15.03	8	5	45	131.1	146	14.7
1913	10,099	...	341	33.7	170	17.1	12	16	50	146.6	174	17.1
1914	10,619	332	329	30.8	181	17.04	13	6	58	176.2	174	16.3

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 1,551.	Total Population at all ages... ..	9,753	At Census, 1911.
	Total families or separate occupiers	1,999	



TABLE II.  
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1914.

Notifiable Diseases.	Number of Cases notified.										Total Cases notified in each Locality.		Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Hough- ton.	Work- house.			
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.					
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup) ... ..	18	3	12	2	1	...	...	...	18	...	...	1	
Erysipelas ... ..	14	1	1	...	6	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	155	39	112	3	...	...	...	...	155	...	...	26	
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric Fever ... ..	22	...	6	8	7	...	...	...	22	...	...	16	
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	11	2	3	1	4	...	...	...	10	...	1	...	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	
Totals ... ..	226	4	46	136	14	19	5	2	225	1	...	43	

Houghton Urban Isolation Hospital—Within district.

Stanhope, Wolsingham, Birtley and Maiden Law—All without district.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes { Certified ... { Uncertified	167 7	57 1	15 ...	13 ...	8 ...	3 ...	17 ...	23 4	31 2	167 7
Enteric Fever ... ..	3	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	7	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..	12	...	...	2	1	2	4	3	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	8	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	3	2
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ... ..	18	1	...	...	...	...	1	8	8	3
Bronchitis ... ..	13	5	1	...	...	...	1	5	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	14	6	...	2	...	...	1	2	3	5
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ... ..	22	13	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... ..	6	...	1	...	1	...	3	1	...	1
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ... ..	16	15	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	41	11	4	1	2	...	3	3	17	4
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	174	58	15	13	8	3	17	27	33	21

TABLE IV.

## Infant Mortality.

Causes of Death.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All causes	{	Certified ...	10	3	2	...	15	11	10	8	12	56
		Uncertified ...	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Small-pox ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-Cough ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	4	...
Convulsions ... ..			...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	3
Laryngitis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	...	6
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4	...
Diarrhœa ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	7	...
Enteritis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	6	...
Gastritis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Rickets ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlaying ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Injury at Birth ... ..			1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis ... ..			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations ... ..			1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ... ..			7	...	...	...	7	1	...	...	...	8
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ... ..			3	1	...	...	4	2	1	1	...	8
Other causes... ..			...	1	2	...	3	1	1	...	1	6
			12	3	2	...	17	11	10	8	12	58
Nett Births in the Year of			{ legitimate infants ... .. 317									
			{ illegitimate infants ... .. 12									
Nett Deaths in the Year of			{ legitimate infants ... .. 55									
			{ illegitimate infants ... .. 3									



TABLE V.  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF DURHAM.

Preliminary Chief Vital Statistics for 1914, and their comparison with 1913 and 1912, and the average of the five years 1907—1911.

Estimated Population (1914)	...	...	988,750
„ „ (1913)	...	...	970,070
„ „ (1912)	...	...	951,750

	Mean Rate for the 5 years 1907-1911.	Annual Rates per 1,000 Population.		
		1912	1913	1914
Birth-rate ... ..	33·4	31·2	30·6	31·1
Death-rate ... ..	15·7	13·7	15·3	14·9
Zymotic Death-rate ... ..	2·10	1·39	1·85	2·20
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 } births ... ..	139	106	137	134
Small-pox ... ..	Nil.	0·00	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0·07	0·10	0·15	0·22
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	0·17	0·16	0·19	0·23
Fever (Enteric and Continued) ...	0·13	0·06	0·06	0·11
Measles ... ..	0·38	0·52	0·41	0·17
Whooping Cough ... ..	0·34	0·27	0·18	0·36
Diarrhœa ... ..	0·99	0·27	0·85	1·12
Phthisis ... ..	0·89	0·91	0·89	0·92
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	0·67	0·32	0·53	0·42
Acute Respiratory Diseases ...	2·52	2·18	2·53	2·29

Shire Hall, Durham,  
27th January, 1915.

T. EUSTACE HILL,  
County Medical Officer.

TABLE VI.

*Summary of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department during the year 1914, in the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring.*

<b>I. Public Health Acts.</b>	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	General Remarks.
Dwelling-houses & Schools--				
Foul Conditions... ..	1	*4	1	*Hole in-the-Wall, unable to get houses. 80 work taken in hand
Structural Defects ... ..	99	37	56	
Overcrowding ... ..	8	...	2	
Lodging-houses ... ..	1	..	1	
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	...	...	...	
Cowsheds ... ..	...	...	...	
Bakehouses ... ..	...	...	...	
Slaughter-houses ... ..	1	...	1	*Notices to convert into W.C.'s. 31 Pit Row, Hill- Side, and Swal- well Terrace work in hand
Ashpits and Privies... ..	117	*37	123	
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	10	...	10	
Waterclosets ... ..	15	...	15	
Defective Yard Paving ... ..	80	23	65	
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps... ..	...	...	...	
No Disconnection from Sewers ... ..	...	...	...	
Other Faults ... ..	45	...	45	
Water Supply ... ..	77	...	77	
Pigsties ... ..	2	...	2	
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...	
Offensive Trades ... ..	1	...	1	
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	1	...	1	
Other Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	9 Pit Row to carry out yet, work in hand.
Defective Roofs & Spouting	...	16	7	
<b>TOTALS ... ..</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>407</b>	

**II. Water, Food, and Drugs.**

	Number.
Samples of Water taken for Anal- ysis ... ..	—
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ... ..	—
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	2
(Carcases of Tuberculous Beef)	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ... ..	—
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ... ..	—
Samples of Food found Adulterated	—

**III. Precautions against  
Infectious Disease.**

	Number.
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ... ..	3
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	65
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	—
Prosecutions for exposure of in- fected persons or things ... ..	—
Convictions for exposure of in- fected persons or things ... ..	—

**IV. General.**

Number of New Houses erected during the year... ..	—	Ash-closets converted into Water- closets ... ..	—
Number of such Houses occupied during the year... ..	—	Total number of Water-closets in District ... ..	451
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash- closets ... ..	71	Total number of Ash-closets in District ... ..	1020
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets ... ..	10	Total number of Ashpit-privies in District ... ..	446

J. A. EMERY, A.R.S.I., Inspector of Nuisances.